

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRESIDENT WILLIAM R. TOLBERT, JR., PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC
OF LIBERIA, SPECIAL GUEST OF GUINEA'S PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE FOR
CLOSING CEREMONIES OF OAU DEFENSE COMMITTEE MEETING IN CONAKRY

WASH FOR IBS COVERAGE, AFRICAN NEWS DESK, IPA AND IAA

ITEM. PRESIDENT WILLIAM R. TOLBERT, JR., PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA
ARRIVED BY OFFICIAL PLANE IN CONAKRY ON SATURDAY, JAN. 12, AT
11:55, AS SPECIAL GUEST OF PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE FOR CLOSING
CEREMONIES OF FIFTH SESSION OF OAU DEFENSE COMMITTEE. RECEIVED
AT GBESSIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BY PRESIDENT AND MADAME TOURE,
MR. LUIS CABRAL; THE GOVERNOR OF CONAKRY; MEMBERS OF THE
CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUINEA, AND, THE DIPLOMATIC
CORPS, PRESIDENT TOLBERT AND HIS ENTOURAGE WERE RECIPIENTS OF THE
TRADITIONAL CEREMONIES RESERVED FOR VISITING CHIEFS OF STATE.
THE PRESIDENTIAL CORTEGE PROCEEDED TO CONAKRY'S STADIUM WHERE THE
TWO PRESIDENTS WERE GREETED BY AN ENTHUSIASTIC GATHERING OF APPROX-
IMATELY TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND APPLAUDING GUINEANS.

PRESIDENT TOURE, IN HIS WELCOMING ADDRESS TO PRESIDENT TOLBERT
WHOM HE IDENTIFIED AS A LUCID LEADER WHOSE POSITION CONCERNING
AFRICAN PROBLEMS HAS ALWAYS COINCIDED WITH THE WISHES OF THE
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PEOPLE, ADDED: "WE HAVE ALWAYS EXPRESSED OUR DESIRE TO REMAIN
FAITHFUL TO THE FRIENDSHIP WHICH BINDS OUR TWO PEOPLE WHO ARE

DOOMED (FRENCH: CONDAMNES) TO WORK TOGETHER FOR THE TOTAL LIBERATION OF OUR BROTHERS WHO ARE STILL DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM".

IN REPLYING, PRESIDENT TOLBERT EXPRESSED HIS GREAT PLEASURE IN HAVING RECEIVED THE SPECIAL INVITATION TO DELIVER THE CLOSING ADDRESS AT THE IMPORTANT MEETING OF A CONTINENTAL ORGANIZATION. PRESIDENT TOLBERT THEN OFFERED HIS BEST WHISHES FOR THE PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE GUINEAN PEOPLE. THE ACTIVITIES AT THE STADIUM WERE TERMINATED BY A PARADE IN WHICH PARTICIPATED APPROXIMATELY SEVEN THOUSAND STUDENTS; REPRESENTATIVES OF YOUTH, WOMEN, LABOR ORGANIZATIONS; THE LOCAL MILITIA OF CONAKRY; THE NATIONAL MILITIA AND A COMMANDO UNIT.

THE FORMAL CLOSING CEREMONIES OF THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE MEETINGS TOOK PLACE ON SATURDAY EVENING AT THE PEOPLE'S PALACE. PRESIDENT TOLBERT, AS PRINCIPAL SPEAKER AND PRESIDING OFFICER, EXTOLLED THE PARTICIPANTS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS, THROUGH COOPERATIVE EFFORT, TO THE ARDUOUS TASK OF DIVISING PRACTICAL WAYS AND MEANS BY WHICH FREEDOM FOR ALL THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA MIGHT BE ATTAINED. AS A CLOSING GESTURE OF SOLIDARITY, PRESIDENT TOLBERT, ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF LIBERIA, PRESENTED A \$25,000 CHECK TO THE PAIGC FOR THE FURTHERANCE OF ITS FIGHT FOR TOTAL LIBERATION OF THE PEOPLE AND TERRITORY OF GUINEA BISSAU AND CAPE VERDE ISLANDS. END ITEM.

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